

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02915 172317Z

73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 ARA-16 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 INT-08 RSR-01 /164 W

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R 172259Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9098

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN COMITE OF 24

REFS: USUN 2894; MOSCOW 9780 & PREVIOUS

1. AT COMITE OF 24 PLENARY MEETING MORNING AUG. 17, ACTING CHAIRMAN EHSASSI (IRAN), IN ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN SALIM, ANNOUNCED THAT CONSULTATIONS NOW UNDERWAY ON QUESTION OF WHETHER COMITE SHOULD HEAR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS IN CONNECTION WITH PUERTO RICAN ITEM. NO MEMBERS OF COMITE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON QUESTION TODAY AND AFTERNOON MEETING OF COMITE CANCELLED.

2. JUST PRIOR TO MEETING, MISOFF DISCUSSED COMITE HANDLING OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WITH USSR REP NEKLESSA. NEKLESSA SAID US SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY USSR POSITION ON ISSUE WHICH IS LONG-STANDING ONE. MISOFF RESPONDED THAT US CONCERNED AT THIS POINT NOT WITH POSITION BUT WITH POSSIBILITY THAT COMITE, WITH STRONG USSR SUPPORT, MAY DECIDE ABRUPTLY TO GIVE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS A HEARING, BEFORE EVEN DECIDING HOW TO IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION. US SIMPLY UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY USSR NEEDS
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02915 172317Z

TO PUSH SO HARD ON ISSUE WHICH WILL CAUSE GREAT

RESENTMENT IN INFLUENTIAL US CIRCLES. NEKLESSA, SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS, CLAIMED THAT SOVIETS NOT ENTHUSIASTICALLY PUSHING ISSUE BUT THAT "USSR MUST HELP ITS FRIENDS" (READ CUBA). MISOFF AGAIN URGED USSR MISSION TO RECONSIDER NEED FOR ACTING SO PRECIPITOUSLY ON QUESTION OF GRANTING A HEARING TO PUERTO RICANS AT THIS TIME.

3. COMITE VICE CHAIRMAN EHSASSI FOLLOWING THROUGH ON HIS PROMISE TO US TO DELAY PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. AUSTRALIANS AND SWEDES HAVE ASSURED US THAT, WHEN CONSULTED, THEY WILL STRONGLY OPPOSE GIVING PUERTO RICANS A HEARING. AUSTRALIANS CONTINUING TO GIVE US INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN COMITE ON THIS ISSUE.
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